



The Great Outdoors Educational Program Teacher's Guide

Overview

This program can be designed to tie to the Kindergarten to gr. 4, and gr. 6 science curriculums. It is offered year-round but is most popular in the spring. The program features a hike on the Fairy Lake trails behind the Museum, which can highlight topics such as seasons and cycles, habitats and sustainability, interactions and ecosystems or even how First Nations or pioneers used the land around Fairy Lake. Please speak to the Education & Outreach Coordinator about the topics your class is currently studying to see how the program can be tied into your current units. Students will also participate in a stewardship activity to help take care of the environment.

Activities

Introduction and Museum Manners (10 minutes)

Walk on Fairy Lake Trails - (45-60 minutes)

Students will follow the instructor around Fairy Lake (behind the Museum) learning about the environment and what it has to offer. It is during this time that the program will be altered based on the grade attending.

Popular activities include dip-netting in the spring to examine macroinvertebrates which can tell us about the health of the water, nature scavenger hunts, learning about Ontario's species of turtles (and watching them in their habitat during the warmer months).

Game or Activity (15-20 minutes)

This portion can also be tied to the theme of the hike. It may involve examining specimens of furs, bones, owl pellets, etc., or it can involve a game that demonstrates food chain levels within an ecosystem, how pollution can enter and make its way up a food chain, learning about our pollinators and how pollination happens, or about how invasive species are harmful to an ecosystem.

Craft or Stewardship Activity (20 minutes)

Depending on the grade and season students will complete a craft or stewardship activity such as suet feeders, or seedballs with local wildflower seeds that can be planted at school or at home

Conclusion - (5 minutes)

Curriculum Expectations

Grade 1

Science - Needs and Characteristics of Living Things

1. assess the role of humans in maintaining a healthy environment;
2. investigate needs and characteristics of plants and animals, including humans;
3. demonstrate an understanding of the basic needs and characteristics of plants and animals, including humans.

Grade 2

Science - Growth and Changes in Animals

1. assess ways in which animals have an impact on society and the environment, and ways in which humans have an impact upon animals and the places where they live;
2. investigate similarities and differences in the characteristics of various animals;
3. demonstrate an understanding that animals grow and change and have distinct characteristics.

Grade 3

Science - Growth and Changes in Animals

1. assess ways in which plants have an impact on society and the environment, and ways in which human activity has an impact on plants and plant habitats;
2. investigate similarities and differences in the characteristics of various plants, and ways in which the characteristics of plants relate to the environment in which they grow;
3. demonstrate an understanding that plants grow and change and have distinct characteristics.

Grade 4

Science - Habitats and Communities

1. analyse the effects of human activities on habitats and communities;
2. investigate the interdependence of plants and animals within specific habitats and communities;
3. demonstrate an understanding of habitats and communities and the relationships among the plants and animals that live in them.

Grade 6

Science - Biodiversity

1. assess human impacts on biodiversity, and identify ways of preserving biodiversity;

2. investigate the characteristics of living things, and classify diverse organisms according to specific characteristics;
3. demonstrate an understanding of biodiversity, its contributions to the stability of natural systems, and its benefits to humans.